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Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Oh Jon (Republic of Korea), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its thirteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, 2013/23 of 24 July 2013 and other related resolutions on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011 on promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[1] and recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to which it is stipulated that the Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

Recognizing the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to countries on public governance and public administration,

Recognizing also the key role of information and communications technologies and e-government in providing effective platforms to facilitate public service delivery, citizen engagement, knowledge-sharing, transfer of innovative solutions and capacity-building for sustainable development among countries,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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Underlining the centrality of transparent, accountable, efficient, effective, citizen-oriented, professional and ethical public administration to the successful implementation of national development policies and the management of development programmes,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Noting the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the Committee's work in this respect,

1. *Requests* the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, in 2015 and 2016, to consider emerging issues in public administration that are related to the annual main themes and the integration segments of the Economic and Social Council and to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* the Committee to enhance its interaction and coordination with the Council and other subsidiary bodies of the Council with a view to addressing cross-cutting areas through the established working methods of the Council;

3. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, contained in the report on its thirteenth session, on transforming public administration for sustainable development;[2]

4. *Underlines* that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration, requiring appropriate institutional frameworks, professional and ethical leadership, a focus on diversity and gender equality, harnessing information and communications technologies, innovation, responsibility and public sector capacity-building;

5. *Notes* that political and administrative leadership at all levels is essential to inspire, engage and motivate public servants to achieve the highest quality of performance;

6. *Reaffirms* that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration;

7. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,[3] and encourages Member States to continue to support capacity development in public governance and institution-building at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Further reaffirms* the need for the effective use of information and communications technologies in designing, planning, delivering and monitoring public services that are responsive to international, national and local needs and priorities;[4]

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[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 24* (E/2014/44), chap. III, sect. B.

[3] Other clauses related to citizen engagement may be found in paras. 23 (a), (e) and (g) of the resolution.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013.

9. *Stresses* that the governance challenges of sustainable development are characterized by growing complexity and dynamism in decision-making and implementation mechanisms, and encourages Member States and international organizations undertaking reforms aimed at promoting an innovative environment, agile approaches and a culture of collaboration, openness and the knowledge-sharing to use scientific, technological and analytical tools as instruments to support innovative decision-making and implementation in the public sector and reduce risks to public accountability and trust arising from the governance complexity of public administration;

10. *Reiterates* the need to coordinate capacity-building activities at the international, national and local levels, and encourages all stakeholders to renew efforts to raise awareness and expand the application of the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[5] and the outcome document of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, to focus on effective and efficient aid and resource allocation;

11. *Acknowledges* the indispensable role of supreme audit institutions and related capacity-building in holding Governments accountable for the use of resources and their performance in achieving development goals, and calls upon Member States to give due consideration to the importance of the independence of supreme audit institutions in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration and, in particular, to further develop its public administration country studies, to continue addressing emerging issues in public administration through the United Nations E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report and continue to increase the scope and depth of its capacity-development activities with the aim of better assisting countries, according to their specific contexts and needs, in strengthening participatory governance and citizen engagement, managing development, public accountability and anti-corruption activities, including promoting the independence and strengthening the capacity of supreme audit institutions, strengthening institutional and human capacities in public administration, advancing public-private partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer in the public sector and better defining e-government strategies and policies;

(b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance so as to achieve sustainable development by further promoting advocacy and the transfer of knowledge on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels, through, inter alia, United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations Public Service Award and the United Nations Public Administration Network;

(c) To further strengthen governance and public administration capacity development through the provision of advisory services, training, including self-assessment and awareness-raising, and technical projects, such as the United Nations Project Office on Governance;

(d) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[6] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the

[5] A/63/539, annex.

[6] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[7] on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data and the use of information and communications technologies;

(e) To continue its work on supporting the reconstruction of governance and public administration in post-conflict countries for quick recovery and sustainable development.

[7] See A/60/687.